

REMARKS

Reconsideration is hereby requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

By this amendment, claims 18, 28, and 30 have been amended, and claims 16, 17, 22-27, and 32-35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Claims 18-21, and 28-31 are pending.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 18-21, and 28-31 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, claim 18 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 16, and each of claims 28 and 30 have been amended to include all the limitations of claim 26. Each of remaining claims 19-21, 29, and 31 depend on one of claims 18, 28, and 30. Accordingly, it is submitted that all of pending claims 18-21, and 28-31 are allowable for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16 and 26 in the outstanding Office Action.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should there be any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Reiji AGUSA et al.

/Jeffrey R. Filipek/

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Jeffrey R. Filipek
Registration No. 41,471
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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